

WASHINGTON'S BIRTHDAY.

The celebration to-day of the birthday of the Father of his Country—how it will be observed throughout the country and in the City—Parades, Processions, Public Speaking, Patriotic and Political.

George Washington was born on the 22nd of February, 1732, and to-day is consequently the 124th anniversary of that event. Since his death, which occurred in the year 1799, his memory has been duly honored on the annual return of his birthday by those who appreciate his great public services, and who regard him not only as the foremost man of all his time, but also as the purest and best of the many of whom history gives us an account. But, though the event of his birthday occurring never passes without recognition, yet it has not been until lately that great public demonstrations were made. This is due principally to the growth of a more distinctly American feeling in our midst, which sees upon an occasion like the present to manifest itself publicly. The observance to-day has a political bearing also, which accounts in some measure for the extraordinary patriotism displayed by the politicians, who are always keenly alive to opportunities whereby they may make a little Bonaparte.

It must be confessed that though our people are as patriotic as any other under the sun, and though they do honor and respect the name of Washington, as "first in peace, first in war and first in the hearts of his countrymen," yet heretofore there has not been a more spirited manifestation in the celebration of his birthday as in the people of other countries display on the anniversary of the birth of their heroes and statesmen, even in the case of Burns and the return of St. Patrick's day has often called forth more real enthusiasm in New York than the anniversary of the landing of the Pilgrims or the annual return of Washington's birthday.

It is eminently just and proper to appropriately honor the memory of a great public benefactor. It argues a lack of patriotism, of public spirit, of common gratitude to a people, who are confessedly indebted to their great men for benefits conferred, not to make some public acknowledgment of the fact. It is only in civilized nations that such celebrations are known, as it is only a civilized community that can appreciate properly brilliant deeds, pure intention, and great mental abilities and powers. In the case of Washington it is eminently appropriate to celebrate his birthday, for surely no nation was ever so indebted to a benefactor as is ours to him. Had he not wished, America might have been a kingdom or an oligarchy, and he possessed of kingly power; but he rose superior to the weaknesses that beset not only ordinary but great minds, and preferred that his country should be free rather than himself grasp to any personal honor or dignity that could be conferred upon him by accepting regal authority. Other great men have had such status upon their character that their most brilliant deeds will not serve to obliterate them from the minds of men; but all history, contemporaneous and posthumous, is unanimous in acknowledging that Washington's character and life were above and beyond reproach or suspicion. There have been generals whose list of military triumphs exceeded his in mere number, yet none were more skillful than he in adapting means to ends, and doing much with little. As a statesman, he was not a great projector of public measures, for Jefferson and Hamilton is due the glory of originating nearly all the institutions we boast of as peculiarly American; yet he was the pilot who steered the ship of State right amid the perils and storms that encompassed it when first launched, though he did but little to make the keel or bend the sails. He was wise, prudent, pure, and without selfishness, and the honors paid to his memory show that while mankind admire brilliant and daring men, they love, respect and reverence good and wise ones. Self-abnegation is the surest sign of human virtues, and those who manifest it in the greatest degree merit and receive the highest honors known among men.

To-day will be a busy one all over the country. At Philadelphia the Know Nothing National Convention will assemble, if not otherwise ordered, and the negro worshippers will convene at Pittsburgh, and both will immediately proceed to Presidential platform making. At Cincinnati there is to be a great celebration of the day. The military, trades, and benevolent and recreative associations have all signified their intention of turning out in honor of the occasion. The Cincinnati newspapers are filled with notices of preparation.

In Boston, the young members of the Mercantile Association, with a due spirit of patriotism, and a proper regard to the memory of the chief instrument of the establishment of their country's independence, have resolved to celebrate the anniversary of the birthday of George Washington, this year, with such significance as belongs to the event. They have secured the assistance of Hon. Edward Everett, who has consented to meet them upon this occasion, and who will probably deliver them the last public speech with which our people will be favored from his eloquent lips. The occasion is one in which the most graceful and polished orator of the country—perhaps of the world—will lead his aid in elucidating the character and illustrating the services of the great man of his age.

Our New Jersey fellow citizens are also up and stirring. "PATRIOTISM, CHARITY AND HARMONY."

NEWARK, N. J., Feb. 22, 1856.

The Order of United Americans, believing that a constant remembrance to the people of the great services rendered by our country's first President, and the great influence of his public and private life, is one of the best means of securing the perpetuity of his memory, and the preservation of his principles, have resolved to celebrate the anniversary of his birthday, this year, with such significance as belongs to the event. They have secured the assistance of Hon. Edward Everett, who has consented to meet them upon this occasion, and who will probably deliver them the last public speech with which our people will be favored from his eloquent lips. The occasion is one in which the most graceful and polished orator of the country—perhaps of the world—will lead his aid in elucidating the character and illustrating the services of the great man of his age.

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A NEW PLATFORM AND A NEW START.

THE NATIONAL MEN TRIUMPHANT.

Gathering of the Nigger Worshippers at Pittsburgh, &c., &c.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 21, 1856.

The National Council assembled this morning at 10 o'clock, agreeably to adjournment—President Bartlett in the chair.

The roll was called; after which—

The CHAIRMAN announced the question to be on the motion of Mr. Brewster, of Massachusetts, as amended by Mr. Ely, of Massachusetts, "that upon the subject of slavery we stand upon the principles and provisions of the constitution of the United States, yielding nothing more and claiming nothing less;" and upon that Mr. Wood, of California, was entitled to the floor.

Mr. BREWSTER, of New York, arose and said that, by the courtesy of the gentleman from California, who had yielded to him the floor for the purpose, he desired to read to the Council a charge which he purposed making against a member of the national committee.

Great confusion followed this announcement. Several members sprang to the floor and addressed the Chair, and there were numerous cries of "Don't read it now," "Come to the main question," &c.

A DELEGATE from Ohio stated that this was not the time to hear this.

Mr. BREWSTER said he should yield the floor nor be urged down, as his colleagues were yesterday; that he would have his rights or he would lay a corpse upon the floor. (Great excitement.)

Mr. EDIN, of Pennsylvania, rose to a point of order, especially since the tumult just thrown out. His point of order was that the subject matter introduced by the gentleman from New York (Mr. Bennett), was irrelevant to the question at hand, and upon this point he wished for a decision of the chair.

More than twenty members were crying out "Mr. President," while the Chair was endeavoring to keep order by hammering with his gavel. The greatest confusion prevailed, and cries of "order," "order," were heard in every part of the hall. At last, silence was resumed.

Mr. BREWSTER proceeded to read the following charge against Mr. Wood, of California:

I prefer the following charge against Brother Thomas H. Wood, of California, to the National Council, to be read to the Council on the subject of slavery.

During the political campaign in the fall of 1854 he visited the State of New York, and used his influence and exertions to secure the success of the Democratic ticket, and to bring about a party whose principles are antagonistic to the principles of the National Council.

That, as a member of this National Council at its June session of 1855, he is not entitled to a seat with us.

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